

From: Steven Christensen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 11:15pm
Subject: Comments on Microsoft Anti-Trust Settlements

Hello,

I am writing regarding the proposed settlement terms for the Microsoft Anti-Trust suit.

I am in 100% support of Red Hat's counterproposal that Microsoft's donation to the schools be in hardware, and Red-Hat provide free software plus support, for the following reasons:

- 1) It increases the number of students who can benefit from the donation, by about 5-fold as I understand it. The more students who can be helped by this donation the better for them and for the future of our country.
- 2) For a company accused of monopolistic actions, to provide them an avenue to secure hundreds of thousands of more mandatory "customers" seems very counter-productive. Microsoft's 5-year time limit on the use of the software is ridiculous.
- 3) I support the idea of competition in the area of computer software; if students are exposed to an alternative set of software (like Red-Hat) they will be better able to make informed choices in selecting software when they get into the "real world". If all they were taught is Microsoft, how will they know any better?
- 4) This is not really a dis-incentive to Microsoft to stop future monopolistic activities - the software they wish to contribute really doesn't cost them anything, and they lock in more users.

Best of luck in making this important decision; I don't envy your positions.

Regards,

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